

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EA-06 RSC-01 /024 R

DRAFTED BY INR: JHHAWES/HBLOCK

APPROVED BY INR: WGHYLAND

NEA/INS:BBROWN

EA/PRCM:TBROOKS

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R 022017Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, IN, CH

SUBJECT: INR PAPER, "THE PLANETARY PRODUCT IN 1973"

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HYLAND

1. I HAVE YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 16, AND I HAVE PASSED
YOUR COMMENTS ON TO DR. BLOCK.

2. THE FAILURE TO ADD A "THIRD WORLD SUPPLEMENT" TO THE
CHINESE GNP FIGURE IS, INDEED, DELIBERATE. THE FIGURES FOR
THE PRC, BEING DERIVED FROM AN ELABORATE STUDY OF PUR-
CHASING POWER EQUIVALENTS, DO NOT REQUIRE SUCH A SUPPLEMENT
TO MAKE THEM COMPARABLE WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRY FIGURES.
ON THE OTHER HAND, INDIAN GNP FIGURES, AS PRESENTED IN
TABLE 1 OF THE PAPER, ARE DERIVED FROM A SIMPLE TRANSLATION
OF INDIAN RUPEE FIGURES INTO DOLLARS AT THE INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE RATE; THIS TRANSLATION IS NOT AN ACCURATE RE-
FLECTION OF THE ACTUAL PURCHASING POWER VALUE OF THE INDIAN
GNP, AND IT IS TO CORRECT THIS DISTORTION THAT THE "THIRD
WORLD SUPPLEMENT" WAS INTRODUCED.

3. AS WAS NOTED IN STATE 263918, THE BASIC DATA ON GNP

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AND POPULATION FOR BOTH COUNTRIES ARE QUITE UNCERTAIN,

WHICH MAKES ANY COMPARATIVE JUDGMENT DOUBLY RISKY.
SECONDLY, THE "THIRD WORLD SUPPLEMENT" IS AN ADMITTEDLY

ARBITRARY FIGURE. THUS, WHILE THE PAPER IS UN-
CLASSIFIED, AND WILL, ULTIMATELY, BE ISSUED BY THE
DEPARTMENT AS A PRESS RELEASE, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE
POLITICALLY TO ATTEMPT TO DRAW ANY VERY SHARP INFERENCES
FROM THE DATA, OR TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC INTER-
NATIONAL COMPARISONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING THE PRC.
WHILE WE BELIEVE IT IS OF THE RIGHT ORDER OF MAGNITUDE,
IT IS IN NO SENSE A PRECISE CALCULATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT
HARD COMPARISON OF DATA DERIVED BY THIS METHOD WITH DATA
DERIVED BY RADICALLY DIFFERENT METHODS. INGERSOLL

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